

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of February 14, 2006**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Thomas McCarney, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Libby Hambleton, Richard Sutor, and James Wilson. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Superintendent of Public Works William C. Lyon, Steve Mackenzie (Dubois & King), Chuck Goodling (Dubois & King), and Everett Greenslit.

Chair McCarney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):**

- a. **Everett Greenslit: Questions regarding Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrade.** Mr. Greenslit commented that early on in the project, there was an allegation of a confrontation between the Central Vermont Railroad (CVRR) and the contractor regarding the uninsured contractor. The CVRR said if there was no insurance, the contractor would have to put in steel sheeting. Mr. Greenslit would like this to be confirmed or denied. The Board had no knowledge of a confrontation. Sutor had knowledge of a discussion between the CVRR and a contractor regarding sheeting, but there was no confrontation. Mr. Mackenzie stated there was no confrontation and that the CVRR approving a sheeting design is a standard process.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **January 24, 2006 (Regular Meeting):** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. **Approval of Bills**

1. **Warrant #16-06.** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve Warrant #16-06 in the amount of \$344,662.61. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- c. **Vermont EPA Revolving Loan Fund Resolution (Water Department).** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Wilson, adopt the resolution and to sign the arbitrage agreement, certificate of registration, and loan note. The loan is repayable without interest. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- d. **Sewer Line Extension Scope of Services Planning Grant.** Dubois & King has prepared a scope of services and has sent a copy to Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and to Rural Development. Based on their conversation with Rural Development, Rural Development is not willing to consider a grant but is willing to consider a loan. Trustee Sutor stated that, a few years prior, Rural Development had agreed to consider a grant. He wondered what had changed since then. Mr. Goodling is unsure. At this time, according to Trustee Sutor, without that 40 or 50% grant, this project does not appear feasible. Mr. Mackenzie will go back to Rural Development and see if they can determine why we were eligible previously but not now. However, Mr. Mackenzie is aware that they have changed their grant to loan ratio. Mr. Greenslit asked if it was correct that the State will take over the control of septic systems and water, such as permitting and requirements, on July 1, 2007. Chair McCarney is not aware of this. Trustee Sutor would like to see a ballpark figure on this project. The Trustees held a retreat earlier this year and they discussed priorities. The Board also has some upgrades that have to be done within the next five (5) years or so (specifically Northfield Falls). This is going to be a large expense. If there is no grant money, we really cannot afford to do the sewer extension project. The question for the Board, then, is why spend in excess of \$200,000 to fund a design that will sit on the shelf. As of three (3) years ago, the protection of the wellfield from septic systems was not of a high concern for the ANR and our hydrologist. At this time, the Board has other pressing commitments over this one and would like to see the funding mechanism for this project before taking further action.

IV. REPORTS

a. Village Manager

1. **Economic Development in Northfield.** Manager Allard has been planning to get a meeting together sometime in March for major business people in the community. We are trying to get them to take a more active role in our community's economic development.
2. **Proposed Corrections Work Camp.** The Selectmen received a proposal for a proposed corrections work camp in Northfield. This would be a minimum security camp. This will be about 100 bed facility with (hopefully) water and sewer connections. The representatives from the Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services will be coming to a future Selectboard Meeting to make a presentation. The community is free to comment.
3. **Computer Committee.** The Computer Committee came up with a memo regarding the proposed hardware purchase. There have been some changes made but the bottom line is the same. Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the remaining proposal for hardware purchase as listed in the memo from the Computer Committee presented to the Board at the last Trustees meeting (01/24/06). **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. Committee Reports

1. **Inter-Local Agreement Committee.** It was suggested that the Committee meet after Town Meeting Day once Trustee Sutor has had an opportunity to discuss the Wellfield Protection with Mr. McKenzie (as discussed above).

c. Miscellaneous:

1. Manager Allard and Trustee Sutor attended a VPPSA meeting and there will be some cost figure estimates to be provided soon regarding the substation upgrade project. At this time, the plan is that the existing transformer on the Norwich University campus will not be used, the transformer on King Street will be moved to Norwich University, and a new one would be purchased for King Street.
2. A tentative Village Budget Schedule was distributed to the Board. It will need to be revised so that some Thursday evening meeting dates can be shifted to Monday and Tuesday nights.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled): None.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter with Manager Allard present. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:09 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m. No action was taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Sutor, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled meeting.